THE
POQUOSON POST

January 9 - January 16, 2002 | *Proudly Serving The People of Poquoson, Virginia* | Page 5

Briefly

City meetings set

- The Poquoson Industrial Development Authority will meet at noon, Jan. 9, in the Council conference room.
- The Library Advisory Board meets Jan. 9, at 5:30 p.m., in the library meeting room.
- City Council meets Jan. 14, at 7 p.m., in Council chambers. The meeting will be broadcast on Cable Channel 5 and retelevised Jan. 16, at 10 a.m., and Jan. 17, at 7 p.m.
- The School Board meets Jan. 15, at 7 p.m., in Council chambers. The meeting will be broadcast on Cable Channel 5, and retelevised Jan. 16, directly following the 7 p.m. Planning Commission meeting, and Jan. 17, at 9 a.m.
- The Planning Commission meets Jan. 16, at 7 p.m., in Council chambers. The meeting will be broadcast on Cable Channel 5.
- The Board of Zoning Appeals meets Jan. 23, at 7 p.m., in Council chambers.
- City Council meets Jan. 28, at 7 p.m., in Council chambers. The meeting will be broadcast live on Cable Channel 5, and retelevised Jan. 30, at 10 a.m., and Jan. 31, at 7 p.m.

DMV van visits

The Department of Motor Vehicles Mobile Customer Service Center will be in Poquoson Jan. 11 and 25, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., both days, at 830 Poquoson Ave.

MLK holiday set

All non-emergency city offices and the School Board office will be closed Jan. 21, in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

Ask the City

The Poquoson Community Relations & Events Office continues to offer the "Ask the City" program for residents of Poquoson.

"Ask the City" is a cooperative effort between Poquoson and The Poquoson Post and offers citizens the opportunity to ask and have answered questions about city projects, programs and ordinances.

Citizens can relay their questions to CREO by calling 868-3588; e-mailing dmahanes@ci.poquoson.va.us or mailing them to CREO, 830 Poquoson Ave., Poquoson, VA 23662.

Once the question is received, CREO will contact the appropriate city official or department, gather the correct response and forward it to The Post for publication in the "Ask the City" Column.

TAX-AIDE volunteers needed

AARP needs volunteers for their tax-counseling program, which is administered by the AARP Foundation in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service.

Training will be provided by IRS employees and specially trained AARP volunteer instructors during four days in January.

Counselors provide free personal income tax assistance to all low and moderate-income taxpayers, giving preference to those ages 60 or older. All counselors must pass an open book exam before becoming certified and are expected to work four hours a week from Feb. 1 through April 15.

To volunteer, or to obtain additional information, contact Sheila Noll, 133 Tradewinds Drive, Yorktown, VA 23693 or call 877-7790.

Volunteers sought for READS

Peninsula READS needs volunteer tutors to work with adults who are improving their reading, writing and/or conversational English skills.

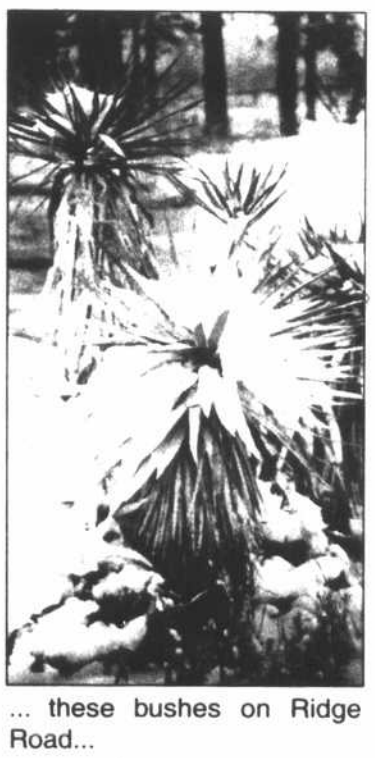
An orientation for potential volunteers will be held at the Peninsula READS office in Hampton on Thursday, Jan. 10. The morning session is from 10 a.m. to noon and the evening session from 6 to 8 p.m.

For more information, call 838-5300 or send an e-mail to learn@peninsulareads.com.

Storm dumps snow on city

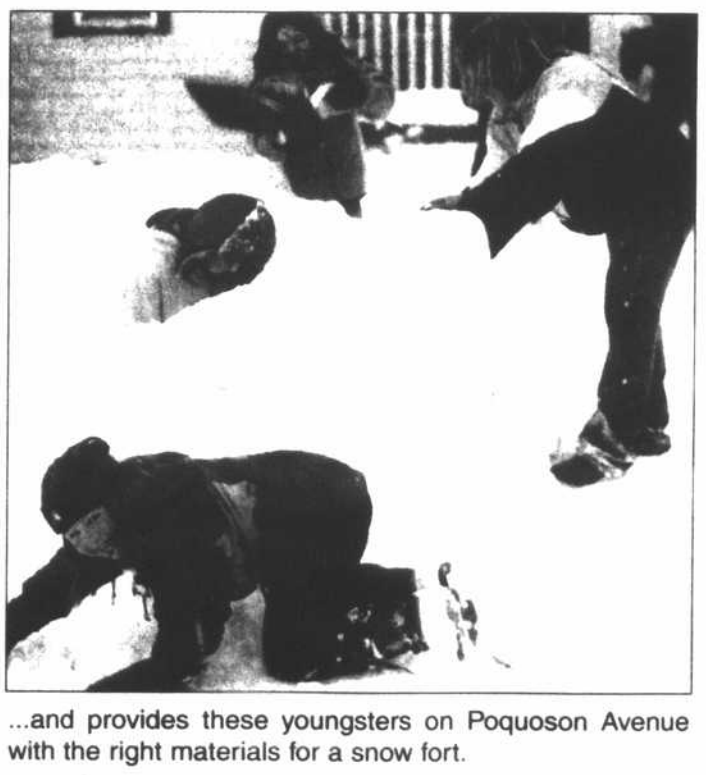
Post photos by Kathy Lee Hull

Snow covers this business on Little Florida road...



... these bushes on Ridge Road...

... these boats at Messick Point ...



...and provides these youngsters on Poquoson Avenue with the right materials for a snow fort.

Poquoson weathers winter 2002

By Kathy Lee Hull
News Editor

Storms that bring more than a foot of snow overnight are not exactly the type of weather Poquoson residents, or most Virginians for that matter, are used to experiencing.

But that's exactly what Peninsula residents awoke to Thursday morning, Jan. 3.

The snow, which continued through the day, closed businesses, government offices and schools around the area.

There were, though, those who continued on the job, despite the gusts of wind that blew drifts of snow across roads and the cold temperatures that caused those same roads to ice over.

"Public Works did a tremendous job," City Manager Charlie Burgess said of Jonathan Montgomery and his crew. Burgess pointed out that both Thursday and Friday of last week, he had visited the Public Works complex "around 6 a.m., and I've seen the activity.

"Jonathan Montgomery has done a good job of managing resources, staggering crews and having continuous activity out there to stay ahead of the accumulation of snow. They've done a phenomenal job," Burgess said of the Public Works staff.

And while City Hall was closed Thursday, staff was back to work at 11 a.m. Friday, "mainly through the efforts of Public Works" as well as the efforts of the Parks and Recreation maintenance crews, who cleared the sidewalks, Burgess said. "It was through their combined efforts we were able to get back on track Friday."

Poquoson City Schools remained closed Friday; however, Burgess said, Public Works spent the weekend "plowing the school parking lots in anticipation of reopening" Monday, Jan. 7.

"It was really a quiet time, as far as emergency needs," according to Burgess. "We did not experience any major events, traffic-wise. That's fantastic," he said, attributing the lack of accidents to "people really heeding the media's warnings. They (residents) pretty much stayed in" Thursday.

If, as predicted, another storm hits the Peninsula area, Burgess is "100 percent sure public works will be ready for the next challenge. They're a great bunch and we appreciate what they did."

Poquoson Police Lt. Percy Ward said he knew "of few problems. Everybody seemed to be making out OK.

"I'm especially impressed with the road crews. They put forth a lot of effort and did an excellent job at trying to keep the roads clear throughout the storm."

As far as accidents caused by the storm, Ward said he thought he had heard of only one.

Captain Jesse Wood of the Poquoson Fire Department found Thursday and Friday to be "relatively quiet. We had no major situations attributed to the storm itself."

Any business conducted by the fire and rescue staff was "nothing we wouldn't have gotten anyway," Wood added.

Police: Last arrest of 2001, first of 2002 one and same

By Kathy Lee Hull
News Editor

It was the city's last arrest for the year 2001 and the first for 2002, according to Poquoson Police Lt. Percy Ward. It also proves, Ward said, that Poquoson police are, as always, "on top of things."

Dec. 31, at 11:20 p.m., Poquoson police received a call from store employees reporting two individuals who had stolen $480 worth of cigarettes from the Food Lion on Victory Boulevard, Ward said.

As the individuals were leaving the area, the police stopped them at the First Virginia Bank on Wythe Creek Road.

According to Ward, when the driver exited the vehicle and began approaching the police, the passenger jumped into the driver's seat and began driving north on Wythe Creek Road.

The officers gave chase said, following the former passenger, now driver, as he proceeded along Wythe Creek Road to Hunts Neck Road.

"On the S-curve at Dixon Drive, he loses control and crashes the van," Ward said of the driver, who then jumped from the van and attempted to escape. He was unsuccessful, however, and the police found him within "minutes of the crash."

The two male suspects, both from Hampton, were 42-year-old Ronald Sellers and 42-year-old Reginald Howard. Sellers was charged with reckless driving, possession of controlled drug paraphernalia, driving on a suspended operator's license and stealing 19 cartons of cigarettes from Food Lion. Howard was charged with driving on a revoked license, reckless driving, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and stealing 19 cartons of cigarettes.

Other charges are pending for both suspects, Ward pointed out. In the meantime, the police recovered the cigarettes.